GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:528
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
VISIT OF CHINESE DELEGATION TO DIAMOND INDUSTRY IN SURAT
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAM JEEVAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent visits of Chinese delegation to the diamond industry in Surat in a bid to allure the business community for setting up trade in China;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the Chinese move and the implications involved in so far as the county`s diamond trade and industry is concerned; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) (c) & (d) : The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), an autonomous representative body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has informed that Chinese delegations have been visiting India and have been having discussions with the office bearers of the GJEPC and their other members having diamond cutting and polishing units for the setting up of diamond cutting and polishing units in China. The interests of Indian diamond industry could be adversely affected if China also becomes a major supplier of the cut and polished diamonds.

The GJEPC has been advised to takeeffective steps for the further growth of the Indian share in the total world trade in cut and polished diamonds while also ensuring that the predominant market share as has been assiduously carved out by the Indian diamond industry in the world market is not allowed to be adversely affected. Government through the fine tuning of its Exim Policy year after year has been facilitating the exports of this very important sector so as to enable it to maintain India`s predominant position in the world market of cut and polished diamonds.